

# Torrance Herald

Co-Publishers  
KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL  
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1962

## 'Twas No Mistake

They put it all down as a mistake—a misunderstanding—when the Supervisors considered a suggestion that city and county fire departments might save taxpayers up to \$25 million a year if consolidated.

Screams from many of the county's 46 cities which have fire departments were so loud that the Supervisors beat a hasty retreat, finally adopting a motion to ask the City Council of Los Angeles for its thoughts on the matter.

They didn't ask us, but we can give them some thought on the matter.

"Thanks, but no thanks!"

We can't speak for the other 45 cities with independent fire departments, but we know a little about our own and the feelings of local officials on any move to force consolidation of county fire departments. And don't be misled by talks that it was just to clean off a couple of sticky wickets on the Sunset Strip. There has been a desire on the part of downtown Los Angeles interests for the past quarter of a century to consolidate everything (including business and commerce) in a super program headquartered near the L. A. civic center.

If city officials hadn't mounted a strong protest, there is little doubt that the consolidation move would have gained stronger support among the Supervisors.

The city of Torrance has an excellent fire department, adequately equipped for all the city's needs, and controlled by the city. Operation of the department is immediately responsible to the mandates of Torrance citizens who pay for the service.

Consolidation with a super fire department would add nothing to the quality of protection in Torrance, would more probably than not add to the cost of local fire protection, and would remove the level of response so far from the city as to be unsatisfactory.

Overlapping areas and jurisdiction problems do occur in some areas of the county, and work on those is timely. No such problem exists here—in fact, the Greater Southwest section has a model mutual aid agreement which works efficiently and provides an abundance of fire protection wherever needed on a cooperative basis. Consolidation would add nothing—only detract.

Saving money through the combined purchases of fire equipment could be done as well under the present system through cooperation. Such a system now operates for fuel purchases with the city and county purchases being bid in one large package at substantial savings.

The day will probably come when greater Los Angeles will be consolidated into a super city and the identity of other cities will dim—but the longer that day can be delayed, the better the citizen's relation with his government is going to be. There is no better nor more responsive government than the local Council. Once the government moves farther away from the citizens, the price goes up and the service goes down.

Opposition to the consolidation suggestion in regards to the county's fire department was timely and necessary.

But, the idea hasn't died—it will be resurrected when the empire builders think they have a chance to slip it over on an unsuspecting citizenry.

## Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

### 40 Years Ago

A giant Industrial Free Fair, set for Aug. 15-19, was being readied by Torrance in celebration of the city's growth. Described as a "thriving city of over 3,000 inhabitants," the community planned for exhibits in three large tents and a variety of outdoor amusements. H. D. Pottenger, Chamber of Commerce secretary, said early in August that ground space was already at a premium, due to the keen interest shown by neighboring cities for participation.

Final work on the State Exchange Bank was being

done, and the financial center was to be "open in a few days," according to J. B. Hines, president.

Plans for a new furniture store were announced by Sam Rappaport. Former quarters of the Torrance Plumbing Co. at 1214 El Prado were to be the site of the new establishment.

Completion of the new library building on El Prado was delayed by slow delivery of materials, but the contractor hoped the library could move in by Aug. 5.

Two municipal ordinances

and a special resolution ordered citizens to keep all dogs penned up, on leashes, or muzzled until the rabies epidemic had passed. A rabid dog, killed a few days earlier, had bitten a 7-year-old girl and at least two dogs and cats.

### 20 Years Ago

An ultimatum was delivered by the commanding officer of Company H, California State Guard, that the city council either improve existing quarters for local guardsmen on duty at Torrance City Park or the 24-hour patrol at the municipal water tower would be discontinued. Councilmen immediately authorized plans for barracks to house 50 or 60 men. Among sites suggested for the new facilities was the unimproved section of city park near Plaza del Amo, where the Guard buildings now stand.

A military order issued Aug. 5 directed that dim-out regulations be extended inland, in some places as far as 150 miles, for the duration of the war. The proclamation applied to all lights in Torrance, Lomita, and vicinity.

August ration quotas allotted to Torrance War Rationing Board included these: automobiles, 10; bicycles, 50; first grade passenger tires, 10.

There was a total of 4,992 qualified voters in Torrance for the August primary election, compared to 5,005 the previous year. Decrease was attributed to several reasons, including evacuation of Japanese, induction of many male voters into military service, and lack of interest due to the war.

## His Wall



## James Dorais

# Proposed Sanity Test Procedures Challenged

A fundamental change in the test of legal insanity in criminal cases has been recommended by Governor Brown's Special Commission on Insanity and Criminal Offenders.

In place of the long used so-called M'Naghten rule under which a defendant is considered legally sane if he knew the difference between right and wrong at the time of his alleged offense, the proposed new test would acquit any accused who, as a result of a mental disorder, "did not have adequate capacity to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law he is alleged to have violated." If acquitted, and deemed dangerous by the court, he would be committed indefinitely to a medical facility.

The proposal has been widely

criticized on two counts: one, that the new test is so vague and uncertain and subject to such conflicting interpretations that it would result in many more crimes going unpunished than at present; and two, that it could lead to abuse of the power to commit individuals to mental institutions.

That the latter objection may not be a capricious one may be inferred from the curious case of a U. S. Department of Agriculture employee, Mary Kimbrough Jones, who was placed in a Washington, D.C., mental institution in April of this year under circumstances that have not yet been thoroughly explained.

Miss Jones is a former secretary to N. Battle Hales, a figure in the Billie Sol Estes-Agricultural Department investigation. He was transferred from his post to another section of the Department a few days before Miss Jones' incarceration, and has charged that he was barred from access to classified files in his former office.

According to Sen. John J. Williams of Delaware, Miss Jones was declared to be in need of psychiatric treatment by a police officer. No calls to her family or friends were made. She was loaded into a patrol wagon and committed to a mental institution without the signature of a doctor.

Two days later two staff doctors at the hospital signed commitment papers. She was confined to a ward and forced to sleep on a mattress on the floor. Thirteen days later, at a hearing before the District of Columbia Mental Health Commission, she was certified as sane and released. Although a transcript of the hearing was requested by her attorney, none was made.

Senator Williams charges that Miss Jones was "railroaded." Whether or not her mysterious confinement was related to her involvement in the Billie Sol Estes case is subject to conjecture. But there can be no doubt that the power to commit individuals to mental institutions is potentially a very dangerous weapon.

## ROYCE BRIER

# Issue Over Bombing of German Cities Reviewed

The best British altercations occur at a very high level and in a very low key. You have to read a news story twice to see how indignant everybody is.

Sir Charles Snow is a physicist who writes novels. He is a controversial chap—has just finished a run-in with another controversial chap—and he appears to enjoy it. He has a book out about two scientists who worked in the British government during the war. Both are dead, but there are plenty of living scientists to carry the torch for them.

It seems F. A. Lindemann, Lord Cherwell, was Winston Churchill's top adviser, and

was largely responsible for strategic bombing of German cities. Sir Henry Tizard, who was senior scientific adviser to the Air Ministry, opposed it.

Snow says Lindemann was wrong and Tizard right. This, of course, is the position taken by many military analysts after the war. Postwar knowledge indicated mass bombings never did the job it was thought to be doing while the war was on.

But Tizard did win one argument when he pressed for top priority for development of radar for the defense of Britain against air attack early in the war. Most testimony is that radar was the most important factor in the huge German bomber losses during the Battle of Britain. Lindemann opposed top priority for radar, and pressed for aerial mines.

Snow says Tizard was right again when he urged development of metallic strips scattered at high altitudes to cripple German radar.

In mid-war the British set up a review of the effects of strategic bombing in Germany. On this occasion the Air Chief of Staff is quoted as suggesting that "Lord Cherwell should be asked to give or obtain an authoritative opinion."

## My Neighbors



"She's the hostess with the mostest."

## A Bookman's Notebook

# Book Due From Author Of 'Advise and Consent'

William Hogan

Allen Drury, who used to be a newspaperman himself most recently he covered the Senate for the New York Times, stopped off recently while en route to the Century 21 Exposition in Seattle.

No, said the author who went into Washington journalism almost 19 years ago, he does not miss the old profession. With a single novel, "Advise and Consent," Allen Drury was able to abandon a life of Capital pressures and deadlines for one shaped just about as he wants it.

There may be tax problems now that Drury did not have as a working reporter. To compensate for those, this tall, quiet, suntanned and affable man has an enormous best-seller, a play and a film made from it, and entrees into the big magazine market that rides along on this kind of literary snowball, and a Pulitzer Prize.

A second Allen Drury novel is due from Doubleday in September—and the publisher is convinced it has another big commercial property in it. Titled "A Shade of Difference," this is the No. 2

unit of a projected tetralogy on the American political scene. Many of the "Advise and Consent" characters will, with varying degrees of emphasis, turn up in all four.

The new book, also with a reportorial or semi-documentary air, deals with a demand upon the United Nations to censure the United States. The demand comes from the head of a new African nation who has been insulted while touring the American South. He makes his move in order to focus attention on American integration problems.

A central character here will be Cullie Hamilton, a Negro Congressman from California, who puts a resolution before Congress apologizing for his country after the African leader's dramatic move. Explosive stuff? Drury does not expect too much controversy to develop. He has tried to be fair.

In spite of its success, "Advise and Consent" was received with some critical reservations, both as a book and a play. The stage version took a merciless trouncing from Drury's former newspaper, the Times. The author's reaction: People read or see what they like or want. "Advise and Consent" was a timely work, as Drury thinks "A Shade of Difference" will be. He has no personal quarrel with critics, theatrical or literary.

As a veteran observer of the Washington scene, would Drury consider going into politics himself, as James Michener is reported preparing to do? Not a chance, Drury said. As a writer of fiction it is much simpler to create your own President, your own members of Congress or whatever, than actually campaigning for office oneself. And why press one's luck?

## Around the World With



"We are renting a car in London in August and driving to Paris. How should we ship the car? Do you ride on the same boat? Any suggestions for Paris at this time?"

You can ship the car from Folkstone, England, and ride the same boat. But it's the same price and only 20 minutes if you fly over—you fly on the same Bristol freighter—from Lydd to Le Touquet: \$9 for a small car; \$9 per person.

This is Silver City air ferry from Lydd Airport. About three driving hours from London to the south coast. They shuttle all day long. But it's best to make a reservation in London.

From Le Touquet, about three hours to Paris by car. Paris in August is hot. And the French have all gone on vacation. A good half the restaurants are closed and many shops. However, you'll find enough open.

Two medium-priced spots in open air—under trees in the Place du Tertre on top of Montmartre; Closerie de Lilas on Boulevard Montparnasse. (In Place du Tertre, sit on the side served by Chef Eugene and La Mere Catherine.)

"... something you wrote about taking a tour to South America. When is that?"

Three weeks starting the last of October. Down the West Coast of South America, Peru to Chile; Buenos Aires north to Rio de Janeiro. A working trip for me but just a fun trip for those who go along. Send me the address. I'll send you the folder.

"I have lost the address of an agency in London that rents houses to Americans..."

VIP Services, 39 South street, London, W. I. Specializes in rentals (short or long) COMPLETELY furnished. (A rare thing. "Furnished" often doesn't mean linen, towels, silver, etc.) Expensive but excellent choice and service.

"We plan three months' driving on back roads in Mexico. Fishing, hunting if possible. Any good suggestions?"

Better have 500 basic words of Spanish. Even then, you'll find back-country villages where only one person has anything but Indian dialect.

A high, four-wheel drive, Jeep, Landrover, Japanese Mitsubishi "jeep," Shovel, sleeping gear, anti-malaria pills.

I'd forget the hunting. A gun is tempting. I wouldn't make back roads in the far-south country around San Cristobal de las Casas. Dangerous primitive people.

Don't show too many luxury things. Be careful pointing cameras.

A Polaroid camera so you can give the picture is a good item.

And a pocketful of balloons—pack light and you blow them up and give them to kids. A small tape recorder and a long-range radio are impressive.

"Can you camp out in France?" It's a French national sport in the summer. The French Tourist Office in New York or Paris will give you a list of camping spots. And they are marked along the road clearly—"Camping."

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the TORRANCE HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

## LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"Women's work is never done... here it is noon, and I haven't got my bed made."